

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending herein. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended as supported by Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application, for example. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to address matters of form.

Examiner Vanaman is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' representative (Tim Evans) during telephonic interviews on March 22, 2006 and March 24, 2006. The substance of those interviews have been incorporated into the following remarks.

1. The rejection of claims 1 and 4-6 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above.
2. Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under §102(b) over Porte. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites a gliding board comprising a gliding surface that terminates in at least one raised end. The end begins at a low point along the gliding surface and extends to a highest point. The end has a peripheral zone and a central zone, the peripheral zone extending from sides of the end towards the central zone of the end. The peripheral zone has a thickness which is less than a thickness of the central zone of the end and is connected to the central zone by a discontinuity that forms an inflection. A width of the peripheral zone, measured from a nearest point along the side of the end, increases from the low point of the end to a maximum value at the highest point of the end.

Porte discloses, in Figs. 1 and 3, a board having a gliding surface 7 that terminates in at least one raised end 8. The end of Porte begins at a low point w1 along the gliding surface 7 and extends to a highest point 2. Porte discloses, in Fig. 1, a peripheral zone 22 of the end 8 that decreases from the low point w1 of the end 8 to a minimum value at the highest point 2 of the end 8. Indeed, Porte discloses a peripheral zone, which has features that are exactly opposite to the beneficial features of the present invention, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Porte fails to disclose a gliding board having a peripheral zone wherein a width of the peripheral zone,

measured from a nearest point along the side of the end, increases from the low point of the end to a maximum value at the highest point of the end, as recited in claim 1. Since claims 5 and 6 depend directly from claim 1, claims 5 and 6 are also believed to be allowable over the applied art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

3. Claim 4 was rejected under §103(a) over Porte in view of Stoveken. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments submitted above distinguish claim 1 from Porte. Since Stoveken does not overcome the deficiencies of Porte, and since claim 4 depends directly from claim 1, claim 4 is also believed to be allowable over the applied art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, Examiner Vanaman is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

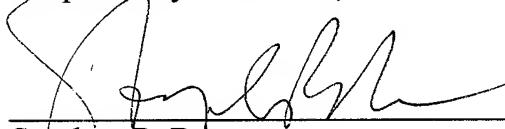
If Examiner Vanaman believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

March 28, 2006

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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